**MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI** (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): Will the Government be pleased to complete the building next year in view of the fact that thatched buildings are not safe?

**MR. K. GEORGE** (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The Government cannot lay down an absolute date, but they can only ask the Chief Engineer to expedite the work.

*Filling of new Vacancies in the Secretariat and Account Office.*

85. **MR. P. HABEEB MAHOMED** (*Nominated*): (1) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government have ruled that, when vacancies arise in the Secretariat and the Account Office, the applicant who has put in the longest acting service previously should be given preference over others and that applicants should come in only according to the length of their previous service?

(2) Are the Government aware that this rule has most adversely affected such communities as the Ezhava and the Mahomedan, who are backward in education?

**MR. K. GEORGE** (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (1) This is the general rule, as regards acting appointments. Substantive appointments are made by selection, mere length of acting service being not necessarily the deciding factor.

(2) The Government do not consider that the Ezhava and Mahomedan communities have been adversely affected.

**MR. P. HABEEB MAHOMED** (*Nominated*): With reference to the answer to part (1), may I know whether there has been any deviation from the general rule as regards acting appointments?

**MR. K. GEORGE** (*Chief Secretary to Government*): In which office?

**MR. P. HABEEB MAHOMED** (*Nominated*): Either in the Account Office or in the Secretariat.

**MR. K. GEORGE** (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I do not recollect.

**MR. P. HABEEB MAHOMED** (*Nominated*): Am I to understand that when the question of filling up acting vacancies comes up, the Government will not consider the claims of acting men?

**MR. K. GEORGE** (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Their claims will be considered.

**MR. P. HABEEB MAHOMED** (*Nominated*): What are the deciding factors which go to determine the question of efficiency, qualification, etc.?

**MR. K. GEORGE** (*Chief Secretary to Government*): What is said in the answer is that previous service merely will not be the only deciding factor. There are many other things such as efficiency and qualification.

**MR. P. HABEEB MAHOMED** (*Nominated*): Does the member mean to say that when the question of filling up acting appointments comes, the question of efficiency will be considered or caste?

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MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Even there, if a person is proved to be inefficient, he will not be taken back.

MR. P. HABEEB MAHOMED (*Nominated*): With reference to answer to part (2) of the question, are the Government aware that qualified applicants belonging to Ezhava and Mahomedan communities are often refused admission on the ground that they are new applicants?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): That may be, and it is in accordance with the general principles.

MR. P. HABEEB MAHOMED (*Nominated*): Are the Government aware that even in the case of substantive appointments they are refused on the ground that there are acting men?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The claims of acting men will be considered, if they are efficient.

MR. P. HABEEB MAHOMED (*Nominated*): Am I to understand that when acting vacancies arise, their claims will be considered and that the claims of others will not be considered?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): In all cases of filling up of substantive appointments, the claims of acting men will certainly be considered.

MR. P. HABEEB MAHOMED (*Nominated*): I would like to know from the Chief Secretary whether the newly qualified people will have any chance if the chances of those acting men are taken into consideration?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The service of acting men who have already got into the service must certainly be considered. As regards the others, they must wait.

MR. P. HABEEB MAHOMED (*Nominated*): Do the Government observe the principle of giving preference to poorly represented communities over others?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): That will be considered at the time of making the first appointment.

MR. P. HABEEB MAHOMED (*Nominated*): Am I to understand that even in the case of acting appointments that will be considered?

MR. K .GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): They are considered at the first appointment.

MR. P. HABEEB MAHOMED (*Nominated*): I am asking the Chief Secretary whether he is aware that, in certain cases, the claims of such communities have been persistently overlooked by certain officers?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I am not aware. If the member makes a definite statement, I can enquire.

MR. P. HABEEB MAHOMED (*Nominated*): I shall make a definite statement on another occasion.

*Opening of a Hospital at Varkala.*

86. MR. P. HABEEB MAHOMED (*Nominated*): (1) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government sanctioned the opening of a hospital at Varkala several years ago?

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